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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of

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U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP99/04124

Filed: March 30, 2000

Docket No.: 105875

For: PHOTOMASK BLANK, PHOTOMASK, METHODS OF MANUFACTURING THE

SAME AND METHOD OF FORMING MICROPATTERN

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 15, line 5, change "(c)" to --(d)--.

Page 18, line 5, change "1" to --2--.

Page 30, line 20, change "21" to --31--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 6, line 1, delete "or 5".

Claim 7, lines 1-2, change "any of Claims 1 to 6" to --Claim 1--.

Clam 8, lines 1-2, change "any of Claims 1 to 7" to --Claim 1--.

Claim 9, lines 1-2, change "any of Claims 1 to 8" to --Claim 1--.

Claim 10, lines 1-2, change "any of Claims 1 to 9" to --Claim 1--.